

T O

# Both Houses of Parliament.

Friends, many Warnings have you had, time after time, from those that love the Lord, and the prosperity and good of all men, that you would not go about to limit the Consciences of People, but that in matters of Religion and Worship all might be left *free*, to worship the Lord as by them they are perswaded in their hearts, and not to use Violence to any the account of *Religion* and *Worship*; Therefore from the Lord I warn not to meddle with the *Hearts* nor *Consciences* of People, let him have supremacy there; and by you let the Sword of Justice be laid upon the *Worship*; and be ye a praise to *them that do well*, for that is your place: Therefore as you tender the Glory of God, the Good of the Nations, and your Souls and Peace, go not about to limit the Lord, nor his Spirit in his People, that could not be led thereby; neither do you endeavour to make the *King* to his Word, which he hath often solemnly promised, and hath shewed his affection unto you to fulfil the same: for if you go about to make him to his Word, herein you will not honour him, but rather dishonour him, bring Reproach upon your selves. Therefore this further know, that if you go on, and will not let People alone in matters of *Worship*, the Hand of the Lord will certainly turn against you, and in his Fury will he plead with you, a line of Confusion will he spread over you; which if you let the Consciences of People alone, then will you have a good Esteem in the hearts of all the People, and by it the Peace of the Nation may be prolonged: for there is nothing outwardly so much prized by People, as the *Liberty of their Consciences* and *Hearts of Religion*; having that, Tribute, Taxes and Customs are not so much regarded: But if you will go on, endeavouring by Laws to contract People to one *Worship*, and leave not the Conscience free, you will be the cause of bringing the Lord's Wrath against you, and of bringing Desolation upon you; you are set as in a slippery place, therefore take heed unto the *Light* in *Hearts* and *Consciences*, which lets you see many times something in you is contrary to God; that so by that you may be led to make Laws according to God's Witness in every man: Then will you be strong, for the Lord will be on your side, and his Witness in the hearts of People will plead for you: but the contrary, If you reject the Counsel of the Lord, which by his living Witness in your Consciences you may receive; which if you turn from, and go in Cruelty, the Lord's Hand will turn against you, and will cut you off in sore displeasure: Therefore mind to glorifie the Lord, and to honour the Consciences of People alone. And thus in short have I cleared my Conscience in sight of God, as concerning you, whether you hear or forbear. From one who desires the Prosperity of all men who love Truth, Righteousness and Peace.

THOMAS GREEN.

This 27th of the 12th month, 1662.